The 21st British Filk Convention
6-8 February 2009

Ramada Grantham Hotel
Swingbridge Road, Grantham NG31 7XT

Guest of Honour
Richard “Hitch” Wheatley

International Guest of Honor
Rand Bellavia and Adam English

This doesn't bode well...

The banana skin convention have booked the room next door.

Introduction

With all the inevitability of "one man walks into a bar..." we bring you the second progress report for the 21st British Filk Convention, aXXIdental. But no bananas.

Grantham Ramada Hotel

To book a room at the con hotel, you must go through the convention (if you go to the Ramada website, it'll seem to suggest it's all booked up!). **This PR includes the hotel booking form, which you should return to us by 31 DECEMBER 2008 to guarantee your room.**

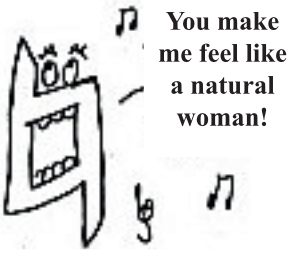
About the hotel
Situated in Grantham (surprisingly enough) in Lincolnshire, the Ramada has good access by road (just off the A1), by rail (Grantham is on the East Coast main line from London Kings Cross), and air (East Midlands airport is only 37 miles away, and is a reasonably easy route by public transport). The hotel has one large (150-seater) conference room, two smaller (50-seater) ones, and four small boardrooms near the largest room. It has 86 guest bedrooms, a large open bar area with plenty of seating, and a pool and sauna. See www.ramada.com for more.

Room rates
Twin or double: £40 per person per night
Single occupancy: £52.50 per night. All rates include breakfast.

Note: the hotel is no longer able to provide fridges in rooms, but will provide fridge space if asked.

What is 'Before the Dawn'?

Well... it's a song by Mike Whitaker. Or it was. Then, one day, while crashing on a friend's floor in Keele, he wrote another (on a mandolin in the wrong tuning), and a little while later a third, with a little help from a former work colleague.



And there it would have stayed.

Except that one day, back when WiGGLe pub meets were still crowded, someone brought along a pile of Zander's filk lyrics. Which included one with a note to the effect of 'thanks to Mike for the loan of the tower'. Mike read it, and realised it wasn't just the tower Zander had unwittingly borrowed, but the whole story... so he wrote a tune for it, and then he wrote another sequel (about half an hour before the filk concert at the '89 Eastercon). And those five songs made it onto Mike's first tape, *The Oak, The Rowan and the Wild Rose*.

And there it would have stayed.

Except by then, Valerie, and Colin, and Phil, and Rhodri, and Vanessa, and heaven knows who else, had latched onto the story, contributing plot and characters in a disturbingly self-consistent way, almost as if the story already existed and was just waiting to be told. There was a handy plot guide, with new instalments every month or so (called 'A4 The Dawn' - you may all groan now), and characters, none of whom have actual names, ranging from the Prince, the Captain and the Rumour-Monger all the way down to the Warlord's Daughter's Music-Teacher's Cat. Which latter fortunately snuck off for a nap in a patch of sunlight before anyone could write a song about it.

It's a part of British Filk history. And someday, we always said we'd tell the story...

The aXXIdental Songbook

We now have enough songs to fill the aXXIdental songbook, and are starting to work on the artwork and layout. However, if you've been meaning to send us something and haven't got round to it, it isn't necessarily too late - we might be able to fit your masterpiece in, if you get it to us fairly soon.

So far as we know, we've acknowledged everyone who has sent songs in (and thank you to one and all); if you have sent something but haven't heard from us, please get in touch (too many emails relating to songbooks seem to get lost in transit).

Alison and Mike Richards (mike.and.alison@blueyonder.co.uk)

Programming

Our programme is now full! Thank you to everyone who asked for a slot! This means that if you are doing something in the programme, please start thinking about your tech requirements and forewarning us where necessary! E-mail us at axxidental@hewett.org and we'll pass your requirements to Martin and Andy Gordon-Kerr, who have kindly agreed to run our tech this year.

Filkfund auction

Don't forget that, as for previous years, there will be an auction of various goodies to raise money for the filkfund (which allows conventions to bring in fabulous guests from overseas, as well as supporting other UK filk ventures). Start stockpiling those auctions, or preparing something special to contribute!

Who are you guys anyway?

A reminder of who's available for all your aXXIdental needs.

Miki Dennis (Hotel Liaison)
Mich Sampson (Guest Liaison, Publications)
Peter Westhead (Programme)
Rick Hewett (Finances, Memberships)
Mike Westhead (Without Portfolio)
Mike Richards (Without Portfolio, Harp Perpetrator)

Contact the committee at axxidental@hewett.org or by post at aXXIdental,
15 St. Catherine's Cross,
Bletchingley, Surrey, RH1 4PX.

Registration

If this PR was sent to you, then you are already registered. So why not take the opportunity to sell a mate a membership?

UK Rates: £32 waged attending, £16 for children 6-17, unwaged attending adults, or supporting adult memberships. £1 for children 5 and under or for stuffed toys. Send cheques and membership form (http://www.contabile.org.uk/membership.html) to: aXXIdental, c/o 15, St. Catherine's Cross, Bletchingley, Surrey, RH1 4PX. Make UK cheques payable to aXXIdental, or contact us if you wish to make an electronic transfer.

The latest rates in Euro and US dollars are available from our website. For payments in Euros, please contact us to discuss options. For payments in US dollars, send checks with a completed copy of the membership form to: J. Maughan, 2138 Buhl Avenue, No. St. Paul, MN 55109. Make US checks payable to Janet Maughan.

Membership List

Being the list of reprobates who have already signed up to this convention as of 11 October 2008...

GoH 1 Rand Bellavia
GoH 2 Adam English
GoH 3 Hitch
Com 4 Miki Dennis
Com 5 Mich Sampson
Com 6 Mike Westhead
Com 7 Peter Westhead
Com 8 RickH
Com 9 Mike Richards
A 10 Matt/Budrick
A 11 Marion
A 12 Tricia
A 13 Sue Edwards
A 14 Alexa
A 15 FanTom
A 16 Teddy
A 17 Dave
A 18 Janet Maughan
A 19 Robert Maughan
A 20 Jessica Prett
A 21 Dave S
A 22 Rika
A 23 The Magician
A 24 Deborah
A 25 Melusine
A 26 Valerie
A 27 Chris Bell
A 28 Gwen Funnell
A 29 Peter Wareham
A 30 Kathy Songbird
A 31 Colin Tuckley
A 32 Square Bear
A 33 Emily Raftery
A 34 Rafe Culpin

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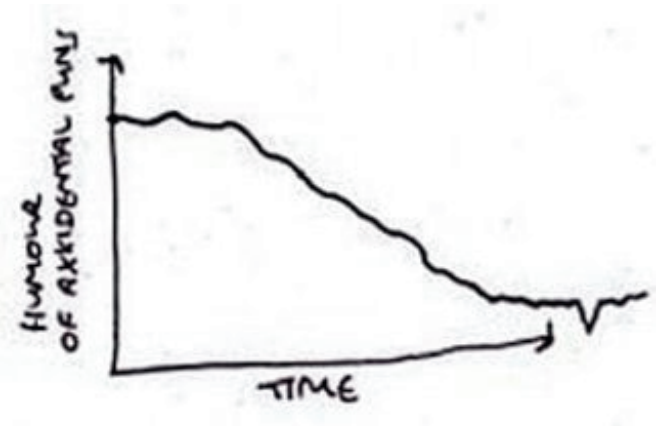

A 35 Alison Richards
A 36 Anke
A 37 Peter Tyers
A 38 Barbara Stewart
A 39 John Stewart
A 40 Rhodri James
A 41 Roger Robinson
A 42 Tim
A 43 Annie
M 44 Jared
C 45 Ellie
A 46 Andrew Barton
A 47 Kate Soley-Barton
A 48 Kathy Westhead
A 49 Karen Westhead
A 50 Tony Rogers
A 51 Bill
A 52 Brenda
A 53 Leo Sands
A 54 Kathy Sands
A 55 Ju
A 56 Keris
A 57 Liz
M 58 Alistair
M 59 Abi
M 60 Rachel
A 61 Anna
A 62 Marilisa
A 63 Azakir Devaris
A 64 Soir Blackwing
A 65 Smitty
A 66 Diana Joan (D.J) Bass
A 67 Michael Bernardi
A 68 Vera's Zimmerframe
A 69 Vera Emlyn
A 70 Franklin
A 71 Jenny
A 72 Paul B. =:o}
A 73 JewelSong
A 74 Nancy Freeman
A 75 Donna Cat
A 76 Hilary Ann
A 77 Ωmega
A 78 Nat
A 79 Hamster Girl
A 80 Bridget Wilkinson
A 81 Debbie Levy
A 82 Simon Fairbourn
A 83 Talis Kimberley
M 84 Corwin Kimberley
M 85 Pippa
A 86 Lissa
A 87 Phil
M 88 Alex
C 89 Amy
A 90 Sib
S 91 Robert Rosenfeld
FF 92 Trudy
A 93 Jela
A 94 Ratz
A 95 Andy
A 96 Martin GK

Grantham Ramada 6-8 February 2009

Booking Form

Name:
Address:

Which nights will you be staying? (please circle):
Friday / Saturday / Sunday

What type of room? Single / Double / Twin

(Twin and double rooms are £40 per person per night, single rooms are £52.50 per night. All rates include breakfast.)

Sharer: Yes / No

Name of sharer (if you have one already):

_____

If you would like us to find you a sharer, please specify:
Male / Female
Smoker / Non-smoker

Do you have any allergies (e.g. food, bedding)?

Do you have any special requirements (e.g. ground floor room)?

Return your form by 31 DECEMBER 2008 to aXXIdental, 15 St. Catherine's Cross, Bletchingley, Surrey, RH1 4PX